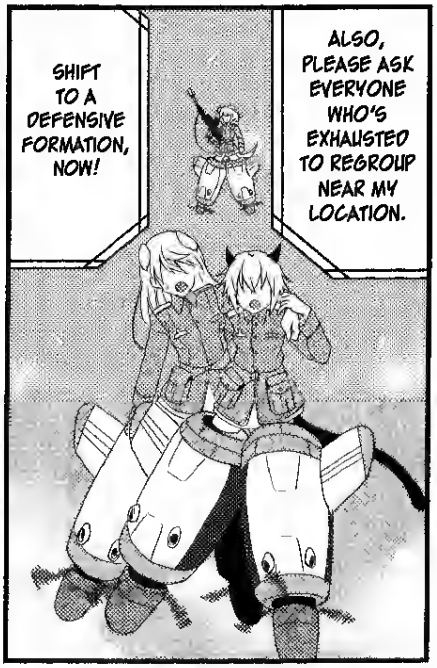


GOT IT. IN THE MEANTIME, FOCUS ON GIVING ORDERS FROM THE SIDELINES.
ILLU, CAN YOU GO WILD AND DRAW THE ENEMIES' ATTENTION TO YOU?
I WANT TO AVOID GETTING CAUGHT IN THEIR LINE OF FIRE.
AYE, MA'AM~

CHAPTER 4 Luku 4

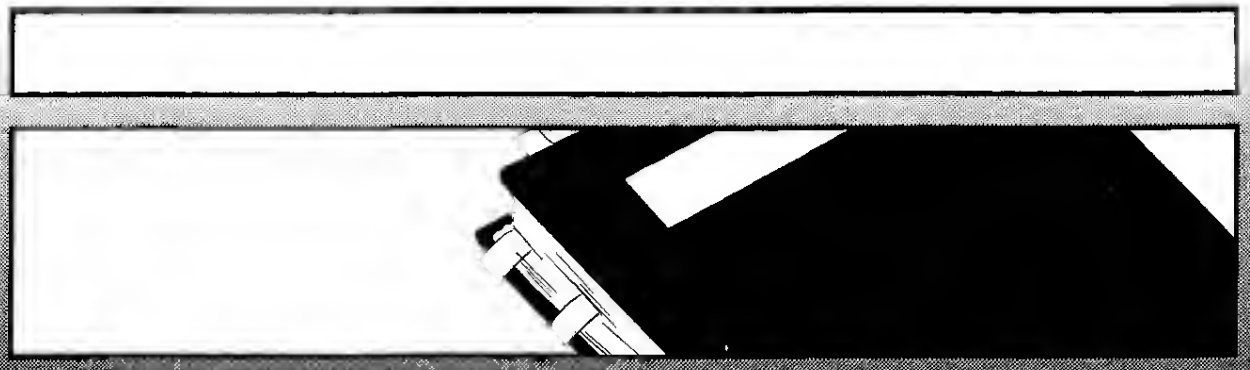
# NIPA AND HASSE (FINAL PART)

STRIKE WITCHES WITCHES OF AURORA

ALL OF YOU, STAY CLOSE AND WATCH EACH OTHERS' BACKS!
LEAVE THE ATTACK TO ILLU!
OUR JOB WILL BE TO DIVERT THE ENEMY'S ATTENTION!! DON'T PUSH YOURSELVES!!
WE'LL HOLD THIS POSITION UNTIL LAPRA RECOVERS!!
ROGER!!
.....
IT'S LIKE WE'RE SEEING A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON...
SPARKLE

AH!
DO IT! FIRE!!
R... RIGHT!!
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES...! SOME-HOW...
I'LL SHIELD YOU FROM THEIR ATTACKS!!
ATTACK AND DON'T LOSE YOUR FOCUS!

GRIT...
BUT...!
HER SHIELD IS WORKING AT MAXIMUM POWER...
NIPA...
AND SHE'S REALLY-MAKING USE OF THE BF-109! ANY GAPS THAT APPEAR IN OUR FORMATION ARE CLOSED IN AN INSTANT...!
DON'T, NIPA!
YOU'RE OVER-WORKING YOURSELF!
YOU WON'T LAST LONG WITH THAT KIND OF FIGHTING!





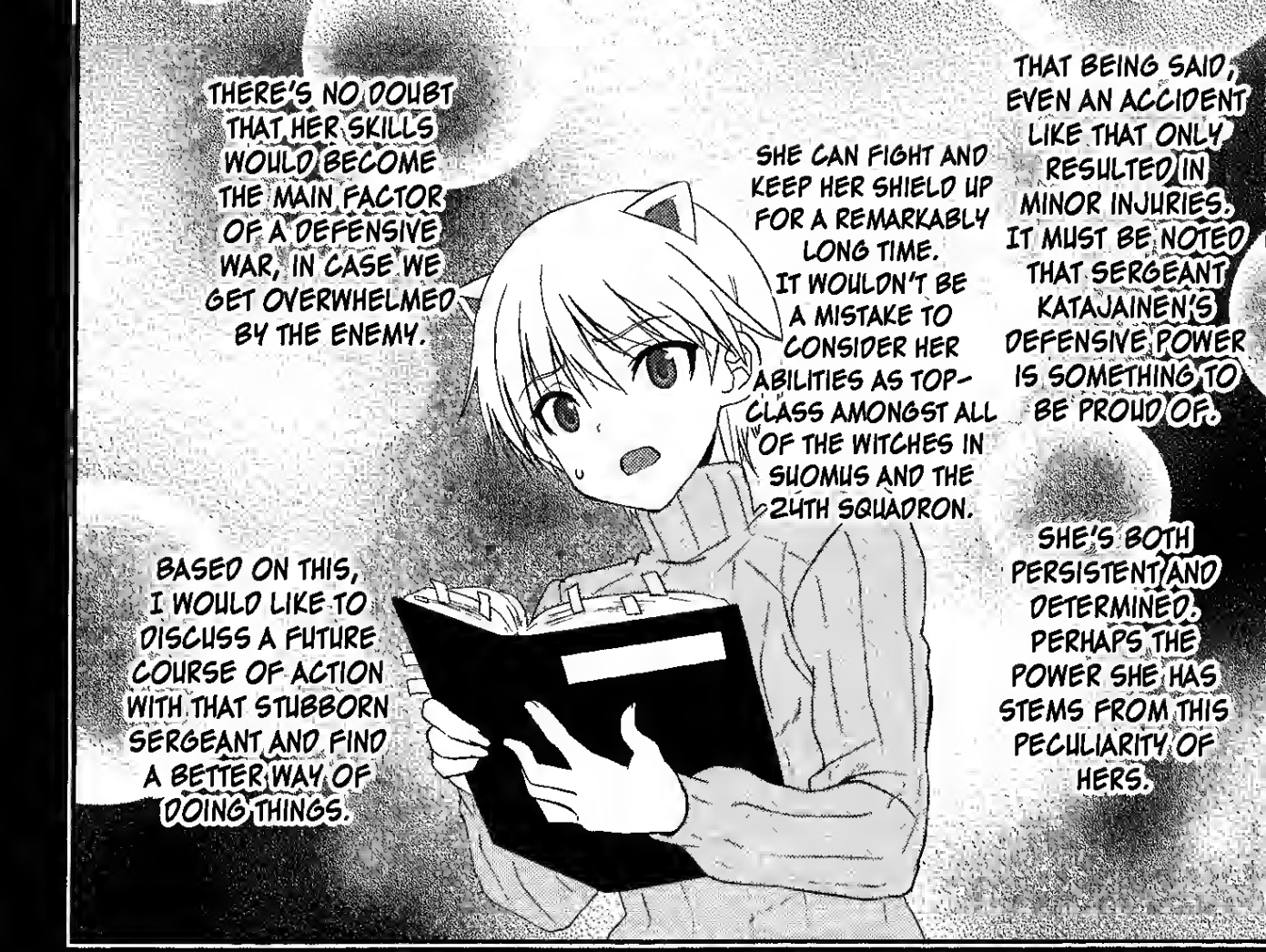
FEBRUARY 12TH

TODAY, SERGEANT KATAJAINEN CAME BACK FROM A SORTIE WITH HER STRIKER UNIT DESTROYED. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IT'S HAPPENED.

THIS ACCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY THE SERGEANT PUSHING THE ENGINE OVER ITS CAPABILITIES.

THE PERSON IN QUESTION SUFFERED ONLY MINOR INJURIES, BUT I RECENTLY NOTICED THAT SHE HAS A TENDENCY TO IGNORE HER OWN LIFE WHILE FIGHTING.

I NEED TO TAKE PREVENTIVE ACTIONS SO THAT THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.


THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT HER SKILLS WOULD BECOME THE MAIN FACTOR OF A DEFENSIVE WAR, IN CASE WE GET OVERWHELMED BY THE ENEMY.
SHE CAN FIGHT AND KEEP HER SHIELD UP FOR A REMARKABLY LONG TIME. IT WOULDN'T BE A MISTAKE TO CONSIDER HER ABILITIES AS TOP-CLASS AMONGST ALL OF THE WITCHES IN SUOMUS AND THE 24TH SQUADRON.
THAT BEING SAID, EVEN AN ACCIDENT LIKE THAT ONLY RESULTED IN MINOR INJURIES. IT MUST BE NOTED THAT SERGEANT KATAJAINEN'S DEFENSIVE POWER IS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF.
BASED ON THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS A FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION WITH THAT STUBBORN SERGEANT AND FIND A BETTER WAY OF DOING THINGS.
SHE'S BOTH PERSISTENT AND DETERMINED. PERHAPS THE POWER SHE HAS STEMS FROM THIS PECULIARITY OF HERS.

SINCE THE BEGINNING?
SHE'S NOTICED MY ABILITIES?

HERE TOO...
THIS ONE TOO...
EVERY-THING'S ABOUT ME...

...HOW IS THIS...

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT BE-

THEN...
.....
THEN WHY?!

ぬっ
THE ONE WHO DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT WAS ME...
THAT'S RIGHT...
...NGH.
THE ONE WHO NEVER TRIED TO LOOK AT HER OWN SURROUNDINGS
WAS ME...!!
SHE ALWAYS LOOKED AFTER ME.
I'M THE IDIOT HERE...!
...NGH.
I'M SORRY... HASSE...
I'M SORRY...!!

I'LL FIGHT...!
IF...
IF IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
IF WE CAN START THINGS OVER...!
I'LL SHOW YOU
HOW I CAN PROTECT EVERYONE WITH MY OWN POWER!
HA!
HA!
YOU LOOK PRETTY TIRED.
GOING TO TAKE A NAP TOO, ILLU?
IDIOT! I'VE ONLY JUST STARTED!
!!

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YOU TWO MIGHT BE ABLE TO PULL THIS OFF.
BUT...
THERE'S STILL A WAY.
ALRIGHT.
I'M SURE IT WILL NEED TO STOP TO RECHARGE.
THAT HUGE BEAM VOLLEY...
IT PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO BE FIRED WITHOUT A DELAY.
IF WE STRIKE AT EXACTLY THAT TIME...
BUT IT WILL BE HARD TO DO THAT IF THEY DON'T GET CLOSER.
IT MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ILLU TO MAKE USE OF HER PERFECT AVOIDANCE CONSIDERING HER STATE.
THEN...

LEAVE IT TO ME!
.....
ALRIGHT!
ILLU!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!!
WHEN THE BEAMS CONVERGE INTO ONE, WE WILL RUSH IN AND STRIKE ALL AT ONCE!
THAT'S WHERE NIPA'S SHIELD COMES IN.
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO DEFEAT IT!
CLEAR!!
LET'S DO ALL
GO!!
ILLU!!
BRING IT DOWN!!

ROGER!!
IT'S STILL TOO SOON TO CELEBRATE!
THERE ARE STILL SOME ENEMIES LEFT! DON'T RELAX UNTIL WE'VE KILLED EVERY SINGLE ONE!!

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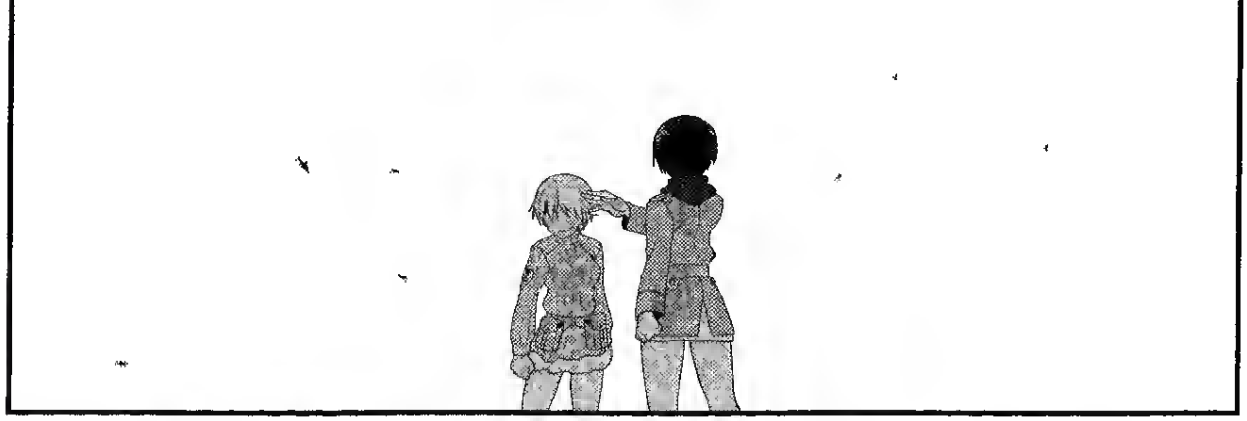
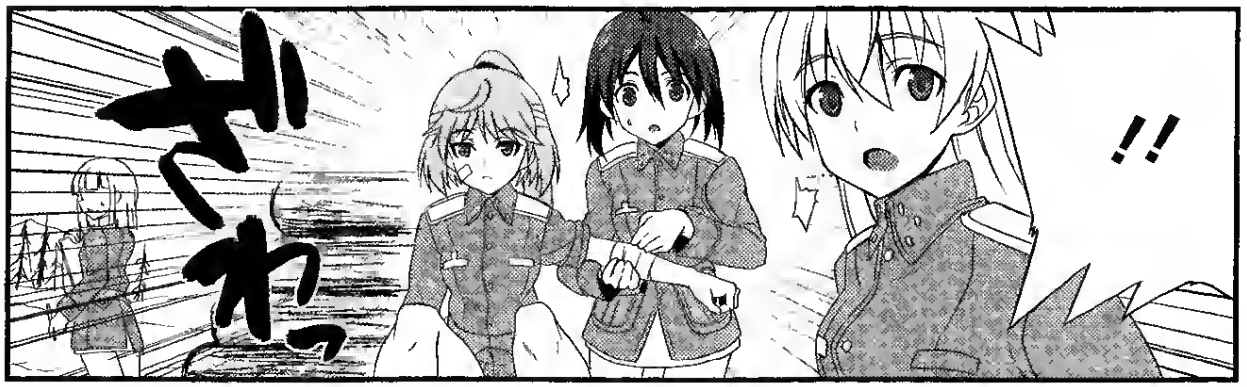


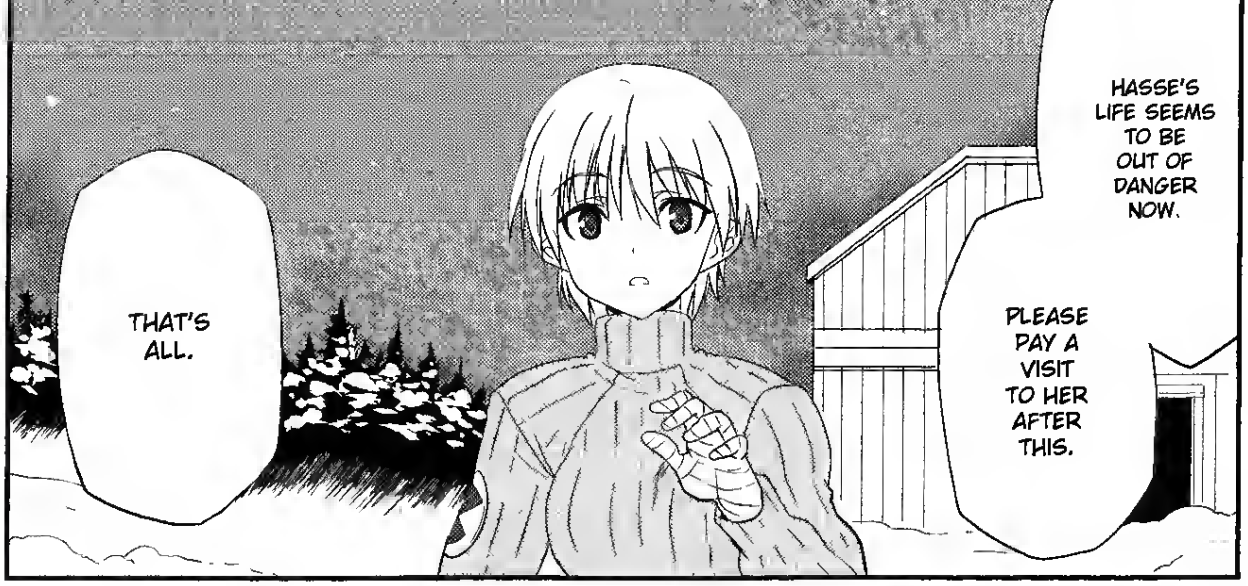


...SERGEANT KATAJAINEN.

YOU KNOW FULL WELL THE GRAVITY OF YOUR ACTIONS, RIGHT?

...YES.

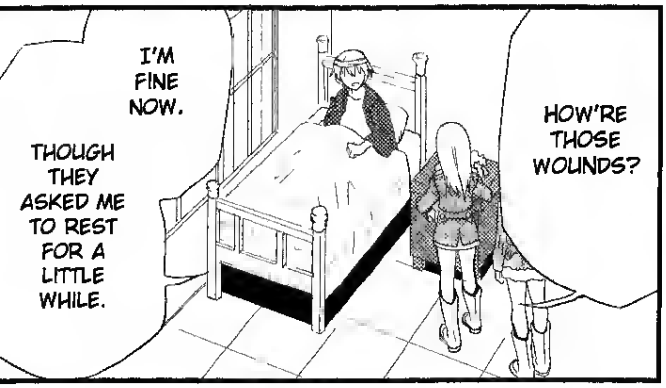
DID YOU FIND OUT WHAT YOU REALLY LACKED?
...YES.
DID YOU READ THAT WRITTEN REPORT?
YES!!
.....
ALSO!!
... NGH.
COM-MANDER...!
SIGH...
YOU'RE CLEANING THE HANGAR AGAIN ALONG WITH THE TOILETS NOW.
USE THIS TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR ACTIONS.
...10 DAYS IN THE DETENTION BARRACKS.


HASSE'S LIFE SEEMS TO BE OUT OF DANGER NOW.
PLEASE PAY A VISIT TO HER AFTER THIS.
THAT'S ALL.

AH...
NIPA! THAT'S GREAT, YOU WORRYWART!
...PLEASE DON'T DO THAT ANYMORE.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU GETTING INTO LIFE-OR-DEATH SITUATIONS

YES...
I'M REALLY GLAD...

HEEEY THERE, HASSE! HOW YA DOIN'?
じゃーん


I'M FINE NOW.
THOUGH THEY ASKED ME TO REST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
HOW'RE THOSE WOUNDS?

OH...
WELL, A SMALL NAP HERE AND THERE WILL DEFINITELY MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
SORRY, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME BUT I'LL DEFINITELY BE BACK...

FIDGET FIDGET

OH, ILLU, NIPA!
YOU CAME TO CHECK ON ME?

SORRY, I NEED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.
EH?
EH, AH... ILLU, WHAT!?
WELL THEN, TAKE YOUR TIME ♪
CO... COME ON, ILLU!!
?
!!
I'M LEAVING IT TO YOU.
.....
~NNGH
ばっ
...HASSE!
!

WOW!
... FOR ME?
CAN I OPEN IT?
.....
AWESOME! IT'S THE SAME AS YOURS! I'M REALLY HAPPY! THANK YOU, NIPA!!
CLOTH-ING...
MINE GOT ALL TORN UP...
.....
I...
NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR A LOT I'VE DONE, HASSE...
...UNTIL NOW...
UNTIL NOW...
I WAS SO RUDE TO YOU... I'M REALLY SORRY...
.....
I'M SORRY TOO...
YOU SEE
I WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS.

I WONDER ...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY FOR A LITTLE BIT AND CHAT WITH ME?
YES...!

Luutnantti
**Eini Antia LUUKKANEN**

# ラウラ・ニッシネン

Plt. Off. Laura NISSINEN

NICKNAME : LAPRA
BIRTHPLACE : SUOMUS
RANK : PILOT OFFICER
BIRTHDAY : JULY 31
STRIKER UNIT : F2A BUFFALO
UNIQUE MAGIC : ——
FAMILIAR : COLLIE